

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended): An interface device for establishing an interface between a CPU and an external unit, comprising:

a timer portion,

a mask portion, and

an interrupt controlling, wherein:

said timer portion asserts a mask signal when detecting that a wait signal outputted from said external unit is kept asserted for more than a predetermined period of time,

said mask portion masks said wait signal and outputs it to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted; and

said interrupt portion issues an interrupt signal to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted.

2. (original): An information processing system comprising a CPU and an interface device for establishing an interface between said CPU and an external unit, wherein:

when said interface device detects that a wait signal outputted from said external unit has been kept asserted for more than a predetermined period of time, said interface device masks the wait signal for outputting to said CPU and issues an interrupt signal to said CPU.

3. (currently amended): An information processing system according to Claim 2, wherein said interface device ~~comprises~~ includes a timer portion, a mask portion and an interrupt controlling portion, wherein

said timer portion is activated when the wait signal outputted from said external unit is asserted, and then asserts a mask signal when said wait signal is kept asserted for more than a predetermined period of time;

said mask portion masks said wait signal for outputting to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted; and

said interrupt controlling portion issues an interrupt signal to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted.

4. (original): An information processing system according to Claim 3, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby to recover said external unit.

5.(original): An information processing system according to Claim 2, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby to recover said external unit.
